Message Text

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PASS FAS, USDA FOR HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAGR MX

SUBJECT: QUARTERLY MEAT CABLE

1. THIRD QUARTER BEEF AND VEAL EXPORTS TO U.S. UNDER PL 88-482 TOTALLED 1,465,343 POUNDS VERSUS 8,003,902 POUNDS IN FIRST QUARTER AND 11,311,559 IN SECOND. FIRST TEN MONTHS AGGREGATE OF 22,216,602 POUNDS FAR BELOW NEW 66 MILLION POUND MEXICAN EXPORT QUOTA. DUE LOCAL HIGH SLAUGHTER CATTLE PRICES VIS-A-VIS U.S. PRICES WEEKLY BEEF AND VEAL EXPORTS HAVE BEEN RUNNING FAR BELOW PREVIOUS WEEKLY LEVELS ALTHOUGH WEEKLY SHIPMENTS WERE UP SOMEWHAT DURING OCTOBER. END OF GOOD GRAZING PERIOD COULD FORCE CATTLEMEN TO DELIVER AT LOWER PRICES, BUT SHIPMENTS OF BEEF AND VEAL EXPORTS NOT EXPECTED TO MOVE AT SUFFICIENT PACE DURING LAST TWO MONTHS OF 1974 FOR TOTAL 1974 EXPORTS TO EXCEED 35 MILLION POUNDS. IN PRIOR YEARS FOURTH QUARTER SHIPMENTS NORAMLLY HIGHER THAN PREVIOUS TWO, BUT U.S. PRICES NOW LESS FAVORABLE THAN EARLIER. LOWER U.S. PRICES RESULTING IN INCREASED INTEREST TO IMPORT U.S. CATTLE FOR SLAUGHTER AND EXPORT MEAT TO U.S. (MEQUILLA SYSTEM). DURING THIRD QUARTER 1974 1,139 THOUSAND POUNDS OF BONELESS BEEF PRODUCED FROM U.S. CATTLE IMPORTED UNDER MEQUILLA SYSTEM. JANUARY-SEPTEMBER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEQUILLA SLAUGHTER TOTALLED 5,377 THOSAND POUNDS.

- 2. TOTAL DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION AGAIN REVISED DOWNWARD DUE TO REDUCED BUYING POWER IN MAJOR BEEF CONSUMING SEGMENT OF POPULATION. RECENT WAGE INCREASE DID NOT SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT MIDDLE TO UPPER CLASSES WHICH MAJOR BEEF CONSUMING SECTOR, AND INCREASES FOR LOWER CLASS DID NOT AUGMENT CONSUMER BUYING POWER, DUE TO CONSTANT INCREASES IN FPI. PROMOTIONAL EFFORTS TO SELL BEEF AT ONLY 20 PESOS PER KILO LIMITED TO CUTS WITH HIGH BONE CONTENT AND MEAT SOLD IN THIS MANNER SMALL PROPORTION OF TOTAL.
- 3. NEW OFFICIAL PRICE FOR FRESH, CHILLED AND FROZEN BEEF EXPORTS WHICH SERVE AS BASIS FOR 0.1 PERCENT AD VALOREM TAX, ESTABLISHED AT 20 PESOS PER KILO. LOWERING THIS DUTY WOULD NORMALLY ENCOURAGE INCREASED BEEF SHIPMENTS SINCE BEEF, FRESH, FROZEN, CHILLED, BONELESS DELIVERED U.S., PRICED AT 73 CENTS PER POUND IN AUGUST. HOWEVER, LACK OF LOW PRICED SLAUGHTER CATTLE LOCALLY EXPECTED TO OFFSET MOST OF THESE BENEFITS. LOWERING EXPORT TAX SHOULD, HOWEVER, INCREASE INTEREST TO IMPORT U.S. CATTLE FOR SLAUGHTER SINCE BONEING COWS PRICED AT ABOUT 30 CENTS PER POUND VERSUS 19 IN U.S.
- 4. NUMBERS (1000 HEAD)

1972 1973 1974

A. ON FARM 'JAN. 1) 26,371 26,830 27,512 B. SLAUGHTER 3,569 3,780 3,800

5. SUPPLY AND DEMAND (1000 MT, CWE)

1972 1973 1974

A. SUPPLY

1) PRODUCTION 592 643 646 2) IMPORTS NEG NEG NEG TOTAL 592 643 646

- B. DISAPPEARANCE
- 1) DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION 541 607 624
- 2) EXPORTS

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- (A) BONE IN NEG NEG NEG
 (B) BONELESS IN CWE 51 36/1 22/2
- 6. EXPORTS (ESTIMATED IN 1000 LBS OF PRODUCT WEIGHT)

A. BY QUARTERS TO U.S. - 8,004; 11,312; 1,465; 14,219.

B. ANNUAL BASIS ALL SOURCES: 35,500/2.

/1 DOES NOT INCLUDE ESTIMATED 35 MILLION POUNDS (CWE) OF

BORDER SALES TO U.S. CITIZENS.
/2 DOES NOT INCLUDE ESTIMATION FOR BORDER SALES TO U.S.
CITIZENS. EXPORTS IN THIS MANNER FAR BELOW PREVIOUS YEAR
DUE TO PRESENT PRICE RELATIONSHIPS. BRANDIN

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